

From the Upper Chamber



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Report for Monday, January 8, 2007

The first day of the 2007 legislative session was called to order by Secretary of the Senate **Robert Ewing**.

Secretary **Ewing** greeted the Senate and welcomed members to the 2007 session. He then recognized Senator **Eric Johnson** of the 1st to offer his greetings.

Sen. **Johnson** led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Pastor **Jeff Vines** of Savannah Christian Church, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

Secretary **Ewing** then asked the Clerk to read a directive from the Secretary of State's office certifying the election of the Senators for all 56 State Senate districts.

After the morning roll call, Sen. **Chip Pearson** of the 51st introduced Judge **Andrew C. Fuller** of Hall County, who will swear in the incoming state Senators.

The incoming Senators took the Oath of Office and were officially sworn in for the 2007-2008 term.

Secretary **Ewing** recognized Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th, who nominated Sen. **Johnson** for the office of President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Minority Leader **Robert Brown** of the 26th then seconded the nomination. Majority Leader **Williams** took the well to speak to the nomination. Sen. **Williams** then moved that nominations be closed.

Without objection, Secretary **Ewing** declared Sen. **Johnson** to be President Pro Tem of the Senate.

Doorkeeper **Lorenzo Wallace** then announced the arrival of President Pro Tem **Johnson** to the Senate chamber. The Senate stood in applause to welcome the incoming President Pro Tem.

Sen. **Johnson** took the rostrum to speak on the accomplishments of the Senate during his tenure as President Pro Tem. He mentioned that tomorrow, Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle** will preside over the Senate.

Majority Whip **Mitch Seabaugh** of the 28th then nominated **Robert Ewing** as Secretary of the Senate. Minority Whip **David Adelman** of the 42nd seconded the motion. Majority Leader **Williams** moved that the nominations be closed.

Without objection, **Robert Ewing** was elected Secretary of the Senate. Doorkeeper **Lorenzo Wallace** then announced the arrival of Secretary **Ewing** to the Senate chamber. The Senate stood in applause to welcome the incoming Secretary.

Sen. **Dan Moody** of the 56th nominated **Lorenzo Wallace** as Sergeant-at-Arms, and the motion was seconded by Sen. **Tim Golden** of the 8th. Sen. **Moody** took the well to speak to the nomination. Majority Leader **Williams** again moved that the nominations be closed.

Without objection, **Lorenzo Wallace** was elected Sergeant-at-Arms. A doorkeeper then announced the arrival of Sergeant-at-Arms **Wallace** to the Senate chamber. The Senate stood in applause to welcome the incoming Sergeant-at-Arms, and he took the rostrum to speak to the Senate.

Sen. **Seabaugh** took the well to speak on the election of Secretary **Ewing**.

Sen. **Don Thomas** of the 54th then introduced the *Doctor of the Day*, Dr. **Bobby Kaufman** of Sandy Springs, and **Beverly Lee** who runs the Medical Aid Station at the Capitol.

Senate Resolution 1, notifying the House of Representatives that the Senate has convened, was read and adopted by a vote of 47 to 0.

SR 2, notifying the Governor that the Senate has convened, was read and adopted by a vote of 49 to 0.

Sen. **Johnson** then appointed a committee to notify the Governor that the Senate has convened, consisting of Senators **Ronnie Chance** of the 16th, **Bill Heath** of the 31st, **Joseph Carter** of the 13th, **Jack Murphy** of the 27th, **Nan Orrock** of the 36th, **Ron Ramsey** of the 43rd, **Gail Davenport** of the 44th, **Bill Cowsert** of the 46th and **Lee Hawkins** of the 49th.

SR 3 was read, which contains the new rules of the Senate for the 2007 session.

The Secretary read Amendment 1 by Sen. **Heath** of the 31st, which makes minor alterations to the rules of the Senate. Sen. **Don Balfour** of the 9th took the well to speak to

the resolution and to explain the changes to the Senate rules. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Preston Smith** of the 52nd, **Vincent Fort** of the 39th and **George Hooks** of the 14th.

Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd took the well to speak to SR 3 and Amendment 1. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Smith**.

Sen. **Heath** took the well to explain Amendment 1. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Thompson** and **Ralph Hudgens** of the 47th.

Sen. **Balfour** again took the well in support of SR 3 and the accompanying Amendment 1.

Amendment 1 was adopted by a vote of 41 to 0.

SR 3 was adopted by a vote of 44 to 10.

SR 8 was read, and Sen. **Williams** took the well to speak to the resolution. SR 8 adjusts certain powers of the Committee on Assignments, among other housekeeping measures.

SR 8 was adopted by a vote of 52 to 2.

SR 9 was read, ordering a joint session of the House and Senate for the purposes of the inauguration of Governor **Sonny Perdue** and Lt. Governor **Cagle**. Sen. **Williams** took the well to speak to the resolution.

SR 9 was adopted by vote of 42 to 0.

Sen. **Johnson** appointed a committee to notify the Governor of the joint session, consisting of Sens. **Moody**, **Golden**, **Seabaugh** and **Adelman**, Majority Leader **Williams** and President Pro Tem **Johnson**.

There were no unanimous consents.

Sen. **Valencia Seay** of the 34th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to thank members of the Senate for their condolences on the recent passing of her father.

Pro Tem **Johnson** then recognized former Sens. **Brian Kemp** and **Hugh Gillis** on the floor of the Senate.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Williams** moved to stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 9.

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